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ABSTRACT

The four videotapes and a viewing guide cover all the practical components necessary for establishing and implementing a successful writing workshop, including the importance of choice, creating a risk-taking environment, the difference between skills and craft, the writer's notebook, the writing conference, revision, the role of literature, and more. The viewing guide takes viewers into the classrooms at Bailey's Elementary School in the outskirts of Washington, DC (eastern Falls Church, Virginia) where teachers wrestle with the questions of what it means to become an effective writer and what is a teacher's role in developing students' competence as writers. Tapes in the guide are: (1) Building a Writing Community (time 31:20); (2) Teaching Writing Skills in Context (time 24:00); (3) Literature That Supports Writing (time 29:15); and (4) Craft Lessons to Stretch Young Writers (time 33:30). The viewing guide provides a few overarching questions for viewers to keep in mind the first time they watch each tape; these questions are followed with more detailed points about specific sections of the tape. The guide sometimes points to specific classroom scenes on the video (such as teacher conferences, mini-lessons, etc.) and suggests stopping the tape to allow time for teachers to react, muse, disagree, reflect, or synthesize what they are watching. (NKA)

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